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## FOOD FOR THE PEOPLE'S BRAIN.

Yesterday afternoon a meeting was held in Chickerell Hall of great importance. The New York Free Circulating Library invoked the aid of friends and of generous, public-spirited citizens. It depends largely upon private subscriptions, and its growing usefulness will be curtailed unless some assistance is rendered from the purse of the citizen.

There is only one free circulating library in the City of New York. That there is a demand for one is happily demonstrated by the success which has attended it. For the decade of its existence the circulation of books has steadily increased every year. The expense of maintaining it has also steadily increased, while the means of meeting expenses has not grown in like proportion. Hence this appeal to the public by the library.

It is a shame that a city like New York should not support a free public library for circulation. Boston devotes \$127,000 to its magnificent public library and its twelve branches, and even counts Little Baltimore, which is supposed to care more for a German than for Shakespeare and holds Milton as of decidedly secondary interest to a choice cannoneau-back.

Since New York City is so grossly Philistine, at least let the intellectual leaven of magnanimous and literary citizens rise and forward the project. In the name of Minerva, help it.

## THE KING'S AMAZONS.

The dusky potentate who holds the destiny of Dahomey in his hands is not devoid of originality. He has one singular corps in his army. It is the King's body-guard, composed entirely of stalwart women warriors. These females are tall, brawny, pugnacious and full of pluck.

They are recruited in a singular way. Hesaid whose wives have been unfaithful send them to the King, who puts them into the ranks. So, too, the women who make domestic life a torture to their "contrariness" are similarly enrolled as warriors.

Nominally they are the King's wives, which would prove a less exacting disposition on his part than the Sultan has about his harem. In time of peace these bellicose females are heliot-dancers. Perhaps it is thought that the execution of *pas de deux* is good training for the execution of the King's enemies.

Africa is not quite as black as it is painted, when woman finds such a sphere of usefulness as the King of Dahomey's Amazon.

## THE SON OF HIS FATHER.

That autocrat, the Czar of Russia, has received a threatening letter saying his son will be like his father's unless he modifies his policy. A woman wrote the letter.

No civilized person can endorse pulicizing the Czar with a large dose of dysmiasis. But every human being must feel some touch of feeling for the Russian woman who, with worse than death confronting her, as the result of detection in protest, finds means to hurl their desultory eloquence at the iron despot who grinds them in the dust.

Civility ought to have some measure of reparation against such despotism as the Czar's.

## THE IRON MASTER.

One Barth, yeoman of old Arlington, a familiar figure in sporting circles in London, and a mischievous source of scandal, has lately distinguished himself in a fashion to eclipse all his previous record. He knocked down a pretty actress, knocking out several of her teeth, hit her as she fell, and kicked the poor prostrate thing. Detestable, Barth is a man and an ironmaster. He has an income of \$750,000 a year, has a shooting stable only second to the Duke of Portland and a record which a blackguard would blush for.

"Such be thy noises, oh, England!"

A young man under the delusion that he was a tiger as a consumer of intoxicants, drank half a beer glass of gin and seven "ponies" of whisky to show the strength of his stomach and his head. Under justly the "ponies" got the bit in their teeth and galloped off with the

spurs to the bournes from whence no man returneth.

Science does not seem to have been enriched by this demonstration as much as it might. Many a "man about town" who modestly admits taking a drop now and then would have carried the late young man's tipple without the flicker of a jag. Young men without a capacity for much hard liquor may take warning, however.

A poor ne'er-do-well mill-hand at Fall River, who is supported by his wife, has just fallen heir to a cool million from the death of an English nobleman. Where is the need of fancy tales when cold chiselled facts like this come at out?

A vessel reports an earthquake at sea. Why an earthquake? It is enough to have summer in winter, without transferring to the bounding deep the little shake to which the earth has claim. No more earthquakes at sea, please.

## SPOTLIGHTS.

Fifteen young millionaires were graduated yesterday. It is needless to say that we refer to plumbers who were authorized to go and make their "plum."

It may seem mean in a man after keeping a murder quest for twenty years to go and tell it just before his own obsequies, but it probably comforts him.

The King of Dahomey has an Amazon army, by a slight stretch on the last syllable it is, I am afraid.

A minister ninety-one years old is sued for divorce by his third wife on the ground of cruelty, desertion and non-support. That man will be a centenarian yet. He wears well.

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